

## Oxon Hill Manor Site (18PR174): Area VI

### Summary of Phase II Testing and Recommendations for Data Recovery

#### Statement of Purpose

Archeological investigation in the eastern portion of the proposed impact area (Area VI) of the Oxon Hill Manor site were undertaken by the Division of Archeology, Maryland Geological Survey in the fall and early winter of 1984. Fieldwork was completed in mid-December with laboratory analysis currently proceeding. The work was undertaken at the request of the Maryland State Highway Administration to investigate the proposed ~~impact area~~<sup>impact</sup> of the Maryland Route 210/Interstate 95 interchange. Work was ~~limited to the proposed impact area~~ and consisted of systematic sampling, distributional analysis, and controlled unit excavation *within the proposed impact area.*

The purpose of this summary is to briefly report on the results of the field phase of this research. ~~Further refinement of these conclusions will likely result from the laboratory analysis now underway. Within this constraint,~~ *We* will attempt to outline the significant aspects of the research area and suggest alternative strategies to address these valuable cultural remains. Modification and refinement of these recommendations will be included in a final report following completion of the laboratory analysis.

#### Research Design

In order to document the subsurface cultural resources of the research area a variety of techniques were utilized. Following pedestrian reconnaissance to locate above-grade features, a systematic sample of shovel test pits ~~were~~<sup>was</sup> excavated at 10-meter intervals. Based on this initial sampling, areas with artifact clusters were shovel tested at 5-meter intervals. A final sample of shovel test pits ~~were~~<sup>was</sup> excavated at 2.5-meter intervals in the highest density areas to provide a larger artifact sample *to refine the distributional information* and to locate and delineate soil anomalies. The shovel tests (average 35 cm<sup>3</sup> *in diameter*) were manually excavated with ~~matrices~~<sup>soil</sup> sifted through 1/4 inch screen and all cultural

material retained and provenienced by grid coordinates. The soil profiles (in terms of color and texture) were recorded for each shovel test pit along with its width and depth. Pits were excavated to sterile subsoil.

Based on artifact densities, occurrences of soil anomalies, and 8 meter square controlled test units were excavated. These units were excavated in natural <sup>and cultural</sup> layers ~~and cultural horizons~~ rather than arbitrary levels. When a soil stratum was greater than 10 cm in thickness, the layer was arbitrarily divided into 10 cm levels within the stratum. All soils were sifted through 1/4" mesh <sup>screen</sup> with all cultural material retained and provenienced by square coordinates and layer number. All subsurface features were numbered sequentially within each square and were excavated in section to obtain soil profiles. All layers and features were recorded on the standard forms of the Division of Archeology, Maryland Geological Survey. These forms include notation of soil color and texture and <sup>e</sup>levational control. After completion of excavation, the soil profiles exposed by the units were drawn to scale to document the events which had occurred in the area.

Following excavation, a topographic map of Area VI was surveyed using a 0.5m interval.

← contour  
Field Results

prepared with  
insert "Historic Research" from rpt p.

Based on the initial 10-meter interval sampling, 5 areas of artifact density were identified as requiring additional testing. These areas were sampled on a 5-meter grid to better delineate areas of historic activity. Further refinement was then obtained by <sup>selectively</sup> sampling portions of the 5 areas with shovel test pits on 2.5 meter intervals. These pits <sup>yielded</sup> a sufficient sample to identify activity loci, date areas of activity and in some cases locate subsurface features. The five areas were designated VIa, VIb, VIc, VI d and VI e.

Correlation with the historic record suggests that two of these <sup>areas</sup> loci (Areas <sup>VIa & VIb</sup> A & B) relate to <sup>clusters of</sup> structures indicated on the 1863 topographic survey map. Area A appears to represent a cluster of three outbuildings indicated as being east of the manor house within the proposed impact area. Area B correlates with a cluster of four structures east of Area A. ~~(Areas C, D and E)~~

No structures appear on the 1863 topographic map corresponding to Areas VIc, VI d and VI e.

## Historic Research

Current ~~Historic~~ research indicates that at least seven structures were located in or near Area VI. The 1863 Topographic Survey (Figure     ) shows two clusters of structures <sup>within the proposed R.O.P. current study area,</sup> one <sup>north</sup> southeast of the manor house and one farther east from the first cluster. The first group of structures contains three building while the second contains four. To tie these structures' locations to our grid, the 1863 map was enlarged to a scale comparable to the highway design maps (1:2400). These maps were then overlaid using the manor house location, the alignment of Oxon Hill Road and the orientation of North as correlation points. Our grid was then transferred to the map and grid coordinates obtained for the structures. ~~Allowing for some discrepancy due to evolving cartographic techniques, reasonable land locations were generated for all the structures.~~ Based on the 1902 Topographic Survey, all but one of these structures <sup>known in the 1863 map</sup> was <sup>1902</sup> gone by this date. The only remaining structure was the largest building in the eastern-most cluster indicated in 1863.

~~do not appear to be included on the 1863 map~~ (suggesting perhaps) activities which predate the map. The pattern of 18th-century domestic material seems to indicate that Areas <sup>VIa, VIb, VIc, VIe</sup> A, B, C and D all were the site of ~~human~~ activity in that period. In order to examine this occupation, controlled test units were excavated.

Additionally, 19th century material was clustered in these areas.

The controlled excavations in Area <sup>VIa</sup> A located structural post holes, what appears to represent a cellar hole filled in the 20th century and several landscape/planting features. <sup>possibly 3</sup> It appears that at least 2 buildings are represented, perhaps indicating that the third structure was not within the right-of-way. This third structure may well correspond to the "overseen slave dwelling" described by Dent (1983). Deleterious impact to the resource was limited to ~~what appears to be~~ a 20th-century road which scraped down a portion of Area <sup>VIa</sup> A and redeposited it slightly down slope within the area. Artifacts buried by this <sup>grading</sup> ~~scraping down~~ include bottles code-dated to 1960. However, the scraping did not destroy the resource, as well-preserved subsurface features (including a structural post hole) were revealed within the modern road way. In general, Area <sup>VIa</sup> A has excellent integrity, proven subsurface features and significant artifact deposition dating from the 18th through 19th centuries. All of these aspects will require additional field research to document the cultural resources present.

\* Artifacts recovered suggest that this was an area of intensive occupation in both the 18th and 19th centuries.

animal pen, building area or some other feature. The results of the testing show that Area B was the focus of intensive activity during the 18th and 19th centuries, and integrity is generally very good.

VIc  
Area C

*for generally very good integrity and*  
Area C was represented by a small artifact concentration which included 18th century domestic debris. A test square in this area did not reveal any features but did indicate good stratigraphic integrity. The light artifact signature quite possibly represents the location of an ephemeral domestic structure.

VI d  
Area D

Area D was similarly a small artifact concentration which included 18th century domestic material. The test squares in this location showed impact from the current roadway in the south past of the area (scraping and redeposit<sup>ion</sup>) and impact from an early 20th century roadway (filling). These two activities have left only a very narrow strip (about 3m wide) with apparent good integrity.

VI e  
Area E

Area E was tested intensively due to the presence of a scatter of 18th century ceramics and other material. The results of the 2.5m grid and one-meter test square confirmed the widely scattered nature of the deposition in a plowzone context. The most likely explanation for the origin of this material is field dumping. A circular depression in this area was augered and test pitted and found to be recent. Another waterfilled depression was likewise a recently-dug hole.

## Area VI B

Artifact concentrations in Area VI B provide evidence for remains of at least two of the four structures shown in a cluster on the 1863 topographic map. The largest structure ~~(still)~~ <sup>(structure -)</sup> was represented by a high concentration of architectural debris. Testing located what appears to be a robbed-out brick footing. Material in the robbers trench fill suggests a late 19th-early 20th century demolition date. The second structure suggested by artifact concentrations ~~the~~ is the eastern-most of the buildings on the 1863 map. <sup>(structure -)</sup> A cluster of 18th and 19th century material near the edge of the impact area may indicate that this structure is beyond the edge of the right-of-way. ~~the~~ <sup>associated with the trench</sup> No subsurface features were ~~revealed~~ revealed. However, the concentration of 18th and 19th century domestic debris ~~is~~ is a significant resource in its own right as it probably represents trash deposits of either tenants or slaves at Oxon Hill Manor site.

The two remaining structures indicated on the 1863 map within Area VI B did not register as <sup>strong</sup> artifact clusters in the systematic sampling. The "L" shaped structure <sup>(structure -)</sup> does appear as a slight cluster of architectural debris. Test excavations in this area ~~showed~~ yielded what appears to be the ~~then~~ remains of a post-in-the-ground footing. This is represented by a pair of superimposed structural post holes and mold.

(indicated on <sup>the</sup> 1863 map)  
(structure -)

The northernmost structure in ~~the~~ Area VI B appears neither as an artifact cluster nor is it represented by structural features. However, a depression where approximately 4 inches of soil has been graded away, perhaps during the construction of the Beltway, may have masked the evidence. With soil disturbance of this magnitude, deleterious impact may have occurred to the resource. However, additional excavation may be needed to thoroughly address the structure.

In summary, ~~the~~ two buildings within area VI B have been located based on structural features. A third building appears to be very near the right-of-way with significant <sup>associated</sup> artifact deposits within the proposed impact area. The final structure appears to have been negatively affected by ~~the~~ previous construction activities in the area, but the scale of the disturbance is not currently known.

a sample of the adjoining yard midden taken. If no structural evidence were found the 3-m. wide strip would suffice for a sample of artifacts.

~~In the northwest corner of Area B, VIb, there was a structure depicted.~~

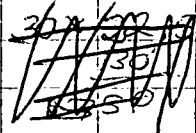
In the northwest part of Area VIb where structure on the 1863 map was located there has been some disturbance, the extent of which is unknown. <sup>Based on</sup> Due to the documentary evidence, a mechanical stripping of this area is proposed to expose for any features present. This would ~~round out the~~



## Recommendations for Data Recovery

### Area IIIa

In Area IIIa, <sup>the dense</sup> artifact concentrations and features extend from the right of way to the S 182 line. <sup>cultural</sup> The large filled cellar hole <sup>North-south</sup> extends from E 285.5 to E 293. The eastern boundary of the proposed mitigation is E 315. The recommended strategy is manual excavation of the entire area due to complex stratigraphy. The area recommended for excavation is <sup>total</sup> 675 m<sup>2</sup>. and The east-west area extends from E 285 to E 315.



Area B, ~~the~~ portions all there is ~~are~~

### Area IIIb

Area B is a complex area which has a variable integrity, ~~also~~ Area B proved to be a very complex portion of the site, which had been heavily utilized throughout occupation of the Oron Hill Manor. The primary artifact signatures and features suggested most intensive use during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although the presence of 18<sup>th</sup> century material suggests earlier usage as well. A staged sampling strategy is recommended for Area IIIb in order to maximize data recovery in the most cost efficient manner.

~~In the area of structure #4, there is a strong artifact signature~~

Proposed mitigation in Area B <sup>IIIb</sup> would be divided into five primary sections, with ~~intervening~~ <sup>known</sup> ~~sampling~~.

excavation of structural features in order to delineate structure locations and patterns of ~~land~~ <sup>known</sup> land use. Following the exposure of structure the intervening yard area would be first sampled and then mechanically stripped to expose additional features related to occupation such as trash holes, fence lines, walkways etc. The area surrounding the well should be manually excavated.

In the far eastern part of Area B, <sup>IIIb</sup> the mitigation would entail an excavation of a 3-meter strip ~~along~~ <sup>just inside the right of way</sup> to locate structural features if present. If located, the structural <sup>features</sup> would be exposed + mapped +

### Area III c

Complete

Manual excavation is recommended for Area C, which ~~is~~ <sup>to be</sup> ~~approx~~ is estimated ~~as~~ approximately ~~10~~ <sup>10x10m</sup> in size.

as described above, is a likely location of an ephemeral domestic structure, with good stratigraphic integrity. Area C

### Area III d

Area D is similarly a possible location of an ephemeral domestic structure. However, since only a narrow strip ( $3m \times 10m$ ) of the area has apparent good integrity, a limited excavation of ~~20~~ <sup>10</sup>  $m^2$  is recommended here to search for features, but primarily to recover a representative sample of artifacts to address research questions ~~relating~~ <sup>relating, pertaining</sup> to status of tenants and slaves.

### Area III e

~~Area E~~ As described above, the artifact distribution in Area E was widely dispersed and its most likely origin is field dumping. Since ~~no~~ there is ~~no~~ <sup>no</sup> evidence for structural remains or other cultural features, no further work ~~is~~ is recommended for Area E.

# 3

Oxon Hill Manor Site (18PR175):Area VI

Summary of Phase II Testing and Recommendations for Data Recovery

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Maryland Geological Survey  
Jan 1985*

Archeological investigations in the eastern portion of the proposed impact area (Area VI) of the Oxon Hill Manor site were undertaken by the Division of Archeology, Maryland Geological Survey in the fall and early winter of 1984. Fieldwork was completed in mid-December with laboratory analysis currently proceeding. The work was done <sup>in response to a</sup> ~~at the~~ request of the Maryland State Highway Administration to investigate the proposed impact of the Maryland Route 210/Interstate 95 interchange. Work consisted of systematic sampling, distributional analysis, and controlled unit excavation within the proposed impact area.

The purpose of this summary is to briefly report on the results of the field phase of this research. We will attempt to outline the significant aspects of the research area and suggest strategies to address these valuable cultural remains. Modification and refinement of these recommendations will be included in a final report following completion of the laboratory analysis.

Research Design

In order to document the subsurface cultural resources of the research area a variety of techniques were utilized. The first step was pedestrian reconnaissance to locate above-grade features. Following that, a systematic sample of shovel test pits was excavated at 10-meter intervals. Based on this <sup>test</sup> initial sampling, areas with artifact clusters were shovel tested at 5-meter intervals. A final sample of shovel test pits was excavated at 2.5-meter intervals in the highest density areas to provide a larger artifact sample, to refine the distributional information, and to locate and delineate soil anomalies. The shovel tests (average 35 cm in diameter) were manually excavated with soil sifted through 1/4 inch screen and all cultural material retained and provenienced by grid coordinates. The soil profiles (in terms of color and texture) were recorded for each shovel test pit along with its width

and depth. Pits were excavated to sterile subsoil.

Based on artifact densities, occurrences of soil anomalies, and above-grade features, 36 one-meter-square controlled test units were excavated. These units were excavated in natural and cultural layers rather than arbitrary levels. When a soil stratum was greater than 10 cm in thickness, the layer was arbitrarily divided into 10 cm levels within the stratum. All soils were sifted through 1/4" mesh screen with all cultural material retained and provenienced by square coordinates and layer number. All subsurface features were numbered sequentially within each square and were excavated in section to obtain soil profiles. All layers and features were recorded on the standard forms of the Division of Archeology, Maryland Geological Survey. These forms include notation of soil color and texture, and elevational control. After completion of excavation, the soil profiles exposed by the units were drawn to scale to document the events which had occurred in the area.

Following excavations, a topographic map of Area VI was prepared with 0.5m contour intervals (attached map).

### Historic Research

Current historic research indicates that at least seven structures were located in or near Area VI. The 1863 Topographic Survey (Figure 1) shows two clusters of structures within the current study area, one northeast of the manor house and one ~~farther~~ <sup>of</sup> east from the first cluster. The first group of structures contains three buildings while the second contains four. To tie these structures' locations to our grid, the 1863 map was enlarged to a scale comparable to the highway design maps (1:2400). These maps were then overlaid using the manor house location, the alignment of Oxon Hill Road, and the orientation of north as correlation points. Our grid was then transferred to <sup>enlarged 1863</sup> the map and grid coordinates <sup>were</sup> obtained for the structures. <sup># The 1863 map was also compared to</sup> Based on the 1902 Topographic Survey, ~~all but one of the structures shown on the 1863 map were gone by 1902~~ <sup>shown in the impact area</sup>. The only remaining structure was the largest building in the easternmost cluster indicated in 1863 (structure #3). <sup>from the highway map</sup>

## Field Results

Based on the initial 10-meter interval sampling, 5 areas of artifact density were identified as requiring additional testing. The five areas were designated VIa, VIb, VIc, VIc, and VIe. These areas were sampled using shovel test pits on a 5 meter grid to better delineate areas of historic activity. Further refinement was then obtained by selectively sampling portions of the 5 areas with shovel test pits on 2.5 meter intervals. These pits yielded a sufficient sample to identify activity loci, date areas of activity, and, in some cases, locate subsurface features.

Correlation with the historic record suggests that two of these areas (Areas VIa & VIb) relate to clusters of structures indicated on the 1863 topographic survey map (see Figure 1). Area VIa appears to represent ~~a~~ <sup>the</sup> cluster of three outbuildings indicated as being east of the manor house within the proposed impact area. Area VIb correlates with ~~a~~ <sup>the</sup> cluster of four structures east of Area VIa. No structures appear on the 1863 topographic map corresponding to Areas VIc, VIc, and VIe so the 19th-century remains in those areas may predate the map. *The pattern of 18th-century domestic material* seems to indicate that Areas VIa, VIb, VIc and VIc all were the site of activity in that period. Additionally, 19-century material was clustered in these areas. In order to examine this occupation, controlled test units were excavated.

### Area VIa

The controlled excavations in Area VIa located structural post holes, what appears to represent a cellar hole filled in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and several landscape/planting features. Artifacts recovered suggest that this was an area of intensive occupation in both the 18th and 19th centuries. It appears that at least two, and possibly three, buildings are represented. Deleterious impact to the resource was limited to a 20<sup>th</sup>-century road which scraped down a portion of Area VIa and redeposited it slightly down slope within the area. Artifacts buried by this grading include bottles code dated to 1960. However, the scraping did not <sup>entirely</sup> destroy the resource as well-preserved subsurface features (including a structural post hole) were revealed within the modern road way. In general, Area VIa has excellent integrity, proven subsurface

features and significant artifact deposition dating from the 18th through 19th centuries. All of these aspects will require additional field research to document the cultural resources-present.

### Area VIb

Artifact concentrations in Area VIb provide evidence for remains of at least two of the four structures shown in a cluster on the 1863 topographic map. The largest structure (structure #3) was represented by a high concentration of architectural debris. Testing located what appears to be a robbed-out brick footing. Material in the robber's trench fill suggests a late 19th-early 20th century demolition date. The second structure suggested by artifact concentrations is the eastern-most of the buildings on the 1863 map (structure #4). A cluster of 18th- and 19th- century material near the edge of the impact area may indicate that this structure is beyond the edge of the right-of-way. No subsurface features associated with the structure were revealed. However, the concentration of 18th- and 19th-century domestic debris is a significant resource in its own right as it probably represents trash deposits of either tenants or slaves at Oxon Hill Manor site.

*contradiction* { The two remaining structures indicated on the 1863 map within Area VIb did not register strong artifact clusters in the systematic sampling. The "L"-shaped structure (structure #2) ~~does~~ appears as a weak cluster of architectural debris. Test excavations in this area yielded what appears to be the remains of a post-in-the ground footing. This is represented by a pair of superimposed structural post holes and molds. The northern-most structure indicated on the 1863 map in Area VIb (structure #1) appears neither as an artifact cluster nor is it represented by structural features. However, a depression where approximately 4" of soil has been graded away, perhaps during the construction of the Beltway, may have masked the evidence. With soil disturbance of this magnitude, deleterious impact may have occurred to the resource. However, additional excavation may locate the structure.

Immediately to the west of the supposed location of structure #2, slight soil ridges on three sides suggest a rectangular enclosure. Testing within this area revealed a linear coal-ash filled trench interpreted as a

drainage ditch. Additional features in Area VIb were a brick-lined well with an associated post hole and mold, possibly relating to the construction of the well. A rectangular mound discovered during pedestrian reconnaissance proved to be soil deposited in the 1960's.

In summary, two buildings within Area VIb have been located based on structural features. A third building appears to be very near the right-of-way with significant associated artifact deposits within the proposed impact area. Sub-surface features indicate good integrity of intervening areas surrounding the structures as well. The final structure appears to have been negatively affected by previous construction activities in the area, but the scale of the disturbance is not currently known.

#### Area VIc

Area VIc was represented by a small artifact concentration which included 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic debris. A test square in this area did not reveal any features but did indicate good stratigraphic integrity. The light artifact signature quite possibly represents the location of an ephemeral domestic structure.

#### Area VId

← Area VId was similarly a small artifact concentration which included 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>- century domestic material. Testing in this location showed impact from the current access roadway in the south part of the area (scraping and redeposition) and impact from an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century roadway on the north edge (scraping and filling). These two activities have left only a very narrow strip (about 3m wide ) with apparent good integrity.

#### Area VIe

Area VIe was tested intensively due to the presence of a scatter of 18<sup>th</sup> century ceramics and other material. The results of the 2.5m grid and

one-meter test square confirmed the widely scattered nature of the deposition in a plowzone context. The most likely explanation for the origin of this material is field dumping. A circular depression in this area was augered and test pitted and found to be recent. A waterfilled depression was likewise a recently-dug hole.

### Recommendations for Data Recovery

#### Area VIa

In Area VIa, the dense artifact concentration and cultural features *described above extends from the south edge of the right-of-way to the S182 line.* East-west the area extends from E285 to E315. The recommended strategy is manual excavation of the entire area in order to delineate and identify structural remains, their age and function, and their interrelationship. The total area recommended for excavation is approximately 675 square meters.

#### Area VIb

Area VIb proved to be a very complex portion of the site which had been heavily utilized throughout occupation of the Oxon Hill Manor. The primary artifact <sup>a</sup>signatures and features point to intensive use of this area during the 19th century, although the presence of 18-century material suggests earlier usage as well. A staged sampling strategy is recommended for Area VIb in order to maximize data recovery in the most effective manner.

A Proposed mitigation in Area VIb would begin with exposure of known structural features in order to delineate structure locations and patterns of land use. Following the exposure of structures the intervening areas would be first sampled and then mechanically stripped to expose additional features related to the occupation such as trash pits, fence lines, walkways, etc. The area surrounding the well should be manually excavated. The current plan is to cap the well at 18" below grade. If this plan is revised, some data recovery from the well may be required.

In the far eastern part of Area VIb, the mitigation would entail excavation of a 3-meter strip from E420 to E435 just inside the right-of-way to locate structural features if present. If located, the structural features



would be exposed and excavated and a sample of the adjoining yard midden taken. If no structural evidence were found the 3-meter wide strip would suffice for a sample of artifacts.

In the northwest part of Area VIb, where structure #1 on the 1863 map was located, there has been some disturbance, the extent of which is unknown. Based on the documentary evidence, mechanical stripping in this area is proposed to expose any features present, which would then be manually excavated.

In sum, the total area recommended for manual excavation in Area VIb, in addition to exposure of structures, is 60 square meters plus a 10% sample of the yard areas (ca. 16 one-meter squares). The area recommended for mechanical excavation extends from E355 to E410, and would encompass approximately 1000-1200 square meters.

#### Area VIc

Complete manual excavation is recommended for Area VIc, which as described above, is a likely location of an ephemeral domestic structure with good stratigraphic integrity. The area recommended for excavation is estimated to be approximately 10m by 10m in size, and would extend from E475 to E485 and from S134 to S144.

#### Area VId

Area VId is similarly a possible location of an ephemeral domestic structure. However, since only a narrow strip (3m by 10m) of the area has apparent good integrity, a limited excavation of 30 square meters is recommended here to search for features, but primarily to recover a representative sample of artifacts to address research questions pertaining to status of tenants or slaves. This strip extends from E505 to E515 and from S134.5 to S137.5.

#### Area VIe

As described above, the artifact distribution in Area VIe was widely dispersed, and its most likely origin is field dumping. Since artifact dispersal is so thin and there is no evidence for structural remains or other

cultural features, no further work is recommended for Area VIe.

5 Area VI  
Oxon Hill Manor Site (18PR174): AREA VI

Summary of Phase II Testing and Recommendations for Data Recovery

Statement of Purpose

Archeological investigation<sup>s</sup> in the eastern portion of the proposed impact area (Area VI) of the Oxon Hill Manor site were undertaken by the Division of Archeology, Maryland Geological Survey in the fall and early winter of 1984. Fieldwork was completed in mid-December with laboratory analysis currently proceeding. The work was ~~undertaken~~<sup>done</sup> at the request of the Maryland State Highway Administration to investigate the proposed impact of the Maryland Route 210/Interstate 95 interchange. Work consisted of systematic sampling, distributional analysis, and controlled unit excavation within the proposed impact area.

The purpose of this summary is to briefly report on the results of the field phase of this research. We will attempt to outline the significant aspects of the research area and suggest ~~alternative~~ strategies to address these valuable cultural remains. Modification and refinement of these recommendations will be included in a final report following completion of the laboratory analysis.

Research Design

In order to document the subsurface cultural resources of the research area a variety of techniques were utilized. <sup>The first step was</sup> Following pedestrian reconnaissance to locate above-grade features, <sup>Following that,</sup> a systematic sample of shovel test pits <sup>was</sup> were excavated at 10-meter intervals. Based on this initial sampling, areas with artifact clusters were shovel tested at 5-meter intervals. A final sample of shovel test pits <sup>was</sup> were excavated at 2.5-meter intervals in the highest density areas to provide a larger artifact sample, to refine the distributional information, and to locate and delineate soil anomalies. The shovel tests (average 35 cm in diameter) were manually excavated with <sup>soil</sup> matrices sifted through 1/4 inch screen and all cultural material retained and

what did you do to expose above-grade features  
found during pedestrian recon. ? not followed  
until later.

✓<sup>en</sup> provenienced by grid coordinates. The soil profiles (in terms of color and texture) were recorded for each shovel test pit along with its width and depth. Pits were excavated to sterile subsoil.

✓ Based on artifact densities, occurrences of soil anomalies, and above-grade features, 36 one meter square controlled test units were excavated. ✓ These units were excavated in natural <sup>and cultural</sup> layers ~~and cultural horizons~~ rather than arbitrary levels. When a soil stratum was greater than 10 cm in thickness, the layer was arbitrarily divided into 10 cm levels within the stratum. All ✓ soils were sifted through 1/4" mesh <sup>screen</sup> with all cultural material retained and provenienced by square coordinates and layer number. All subsurface features were numbered sequentially within each square and were excavated in section to obtain soil profiles. All layers and features were recorded on the standard forms of the Division of Archeology, Maryland Geological Survey. These forms ✓ include notation of soil color and texture and elevational control. After completion of excavation, the soil profiles exposed by the units were drawn to scale to document the events which had occurred in the area.

✓ ✓ ✓ Following excavations, a topographic map of Area VI was <sup>prepared with</sup> ~~surveyed using~~ 0.5m intervals <sup>contour</sup> (attached map).

#### ✓ ← Historic Research

✓ ✓ Current historic research indicates that at least seven structures were located in or near Area VI. The 1863 Topographic Survey (Figure 1) shows two clusters of structures within the current study area, one northeast of the manor house and one farther east from the first cluster. The first group of structures contains three buildings while the second contains four. To tie these structures' locations to our grid, the 1863 map was enlarged to a scale comparable to the highway design maps (1:2400). These maps were then overlaid using the manor house location, the alignment of Oxon Hill Road and the orientation of north as correlation points. Our grid was then transferred to ✓ the map and grid coordinates obtained for the structures. Based on the 1902 Topographic Survey, all but one of the structures shown on the 1863 map were gone by 1902. The only remaining structure was the largest building in the easternmost cluster indicated in 1863 (structure #3).

## Field Results

The five areas were designated VIa, VIb, VIc, VIId, and VIe.

Based on the initial 10-meter interval sampling, 5 areas of artifact density were identified as requiring additional testing. These areas were sampled using shovel test pits on a 5-meter grid to better delineate areas of historic activity. Further refinement was then obtained by selectively sampling portions of the 5 areas with shovel test pits on 2.5 meter intervals. These pits yielded a sufficient sample to identify activity loci, date areas of activity, and in some cases locate subsurface features.

Correlation with the historic record suggests that two of these areas (Areas A & B) relate to structures indicated on the 1863 topographic survey map. Area A appears to represent a cluster of three outbuildings indicated as being east of the manor house within the proposed impact area. Area B correlates with a cluster of four structures east of Area A. No structures appear on the 1863 topographic map corresponding to Areas VIc, VIId, and VIe suggesting perhaps activities which predate the map. The pattern of 18th-century domestic material seems to indicate that Areas A, B, C and D all were the site of human activity in that period. Additionally, 19th-century material was clustered in these areas. In order to examine this occupation, controlled test units were excavated.

### Area VIa

The controlled excavations in Area A located structural post holes, what appears to represent a cellar hole filled in the 20th century and several landscape/planting features. Artifacts recovered suggest that this was an area of intensive occupation in both the 18th and 19th centuries. It appears that at least 2 and possibly 3 buildings are represented. Deleterious impact to the resource was limited to a 20th-century road which scraped down a portion of Area A and redeposited it slightly down slope within the area. Artifacts buried by this scraping down include bottles code dated to 1960. However, the scraping did not destroy the resource as well-preserved subsurface features (including a structural post hole) were revealed within the modern road way.

In general, Area VIa has excellent integrity, proven subsurface features, and significant artifact deposition dating from the 18th through 19th centuries. All of these aspects will require additional field research to document the

cultural resources present.

## Area VIb

Artifact concentrations in Area VI<sup>v</sup> provide evidence for remains of at least two of the four structures shown in a cluster on the 1863 topographic map. The largest structure~~ee~~ (structure #3) was represented by a high concentration of architectural debris. Testing located what appears to be a robbed-out brick footing. Material in the robber's trench fill suggests a late 19th-early 20th century demolition date. The second structure suggested by artifact concentrations is the ~~easternmost~~<sup>easternmost</sup> of the ~~eastern~~<sup>but</sup> buildings on the 1863 map (structure #4). A cluster of 18th and 19th century material near the edge of the impact area may indicate that this structure is beyond the edge of the right-of-way. No subsurface<sup>e</sup> features associated with the structure were revealed. However, the concentration of 18th and 19th century domestic debris is a significant resource in its own right as it probably represent trash deposits of either tenants or slaves at Oxon Hill Manor site.

The two remaining structures indicated on the 1863 map within Area VIb did not register ~~as~~ strong artifact clusters in the systematic sampling. The "L"-shaped structure (structure #2) ~~does~~ appear<sup>s</sup> as a slight cluster of architectural debris. Test excavations in this area yielded what appears to be the remains of a post-in-the ground footing. This is represented by a pair of superimposed structural post holes and mold<sup>s</sup>. The northern-most structure indicated on the 1863 map in Area VIb (structure #1) appears neither as an artifact cluster nor is it represented by structural features. However, a depression where approximately 4" of soil has been graded away, perhaps during the construction of the Beltway, may have masked the evidence. With soil disturbance of this magnitude, deleterious impact may have occurred to the resource. However, additional excavation may be needed to thoroughly address the structure.

Insert : Immediately .....

In summary, two buildings within Area VIb have been located~~d~~ based on structural features. A third building appears to be very near the right-of-way with significant associated artifact deposits within the proposed impact area. The final structure appears to have been negatively affected by

~~Butler~~  
1951. 1000 ft. plateau  
Discovered during geo. reconnaissance  
6 mi. E. of Salt Lake City in the 1960's

INSERT

Immediately to the west of the supposed location of structure #2, slight soil ridges on three sides suggest a rectangular enclosure. Testing within this area revealed a linear coal-ash filled trench interpreted as a drainage ditch. Additional features in Area VIb were a brick-lined well with an associated post hole and mold, possibly relating to the construction of the well. ~~Another above-grade feature~~ <sup>rectangular mound</sup> discovered during pedestrian reconnaissance proved to be ~~a rectangular mound~~ of soil deposited in the 1960's.

previous construction activities in the area, but the scale of the disturbance is not currently known.

*the presence of Sub-surface features put the  
indicate good integrity of intervening areas surrounding the structure as well. ahead of last section?*

✓ VIc  
Area C

✓ Area C was represented by a small artifact concentration which included 18th and 19th-century domestic debris. A test square in this area did not reveal any features but did indicate good stratigraphic integrity. The light artifact signature quite possibly represents the location of an ephemeral domestic structure.

✓ VIId  
Area D

✓ Area D was similarly a small artifact concentration which included 18th and 19th-century domestic material. <sup>Testing</sup> The test squares in this location showed impact from the current access roadway in the south part of the area (scraping and redeposition) and impact from an early 20th-century roadway on the north edge (scraping and filling). These two activities have left only a very narrow strip (about 3m wide) with apparent good integrity.

✓ VIe  
Area E

✓ Area E was tested intensively due to the presence of a scatter of 18th-century ceramics and other material. The results of the 2.5m grid and one-meter test square confirmed the widely scattered nature of the deposition in a plowzone context. The most likely explanation for the origin of this material is field dumping. A circular depression in this area was augered and test pitted and found to be recent. <sup>A</sup> Another waterfilled depression was likewise a recently-dug hole.

Recommendations for Data Recovery

7 → Area VIa

7 → In Area VIa, the dense artifact concentration and cultural features described above extend north-south from the right-of-way to the S182 line.  
*from the south edge of*



East-west the area extends from E285 to E315. The recommended strategy is manual excavation of the entire area in order to delineate and identify structural remains, their age and function, and their interrelationship. The total area recommended for excavation is approximately 675 square meters.

#### → Area VIb

→ Area VIb proved to be a very complex portion of the site which had been heavily utilized throughout occupation of the Oxon Hill Manor. The primary artifact signatures and features <sup>point to</sup> ~~suggested~~ most intensive use of this area during the 19th century, although the presence of 18-century material suggests earlier usage as well. A staged sampling strategy is recommended for Area VIb in order to maximize data recovery in the most effective manner.

Proposed mitigation in Area VIb would <sup>begin with exposure</sup> ~~be divided into excavation~~ of known structural features in order to delineate structure locations and patterns of land use. Following the exposure of structures the intervening areas would be first sampled and then mechanically stripped to expose additional features related to occupation such as trash <sup>the</sup> ~~holes~~ <sup>pits</sup>, fence lines, walkways, etc. The area surrounding the well should be manually excavated. \*

✓ In the far eastern part of Area VIb, the mitigation would entail excavation of a 3-meter strip <sup>from E420 to E435</sup> just inside the right-of-way to locate structural features <sup>f</sup> ~~is~~ present. If located, the structural features would be exposed and excavated and a sample of the adjoining yard midden taken. If no structural evidence were found the 3-meter wide strip would suffice for a sample of artifacts.

✓ In the northwest part of Area VIb, where structure #1 on the 1863 map was located, there has been some disturbance, the extent of which is unknown. Based on the documentary evidence, mechanical stripping in this area is proposed to expose any features present, which would then be manually excavated.

Insert #2

#### Area VIc

✓ Complete manual excavation is recommended for Area <sup>VIc</sup> ~~C~~, which, as described above, is a likely location of an ephemerally-footed domestic structure with good stratigraphic integrity. The area recommended for excavation is estimated to be approximately 10m by 10m in size, and would extend from E475 <sup>to 475</sup> and <sup>from S134 to S144</sup>.

\* <sup>current plan is to</sup> ~~The well itself may be capped~~ the well at 18" below grade. If this plan is revised, some data recovery from the well may be required.

## INSERT #2

In sum, the total area ~~estimated for~~ recommended for manual excavation in Area VIb is  $60m^2$  plus structure<sup>s</sup> exposure plus a 10% sample of the yard area<sup>s</sup> (ca. 16 one-meter squares). The area recommended for mechanical excavation extends from E355 to E410, and would encompass approximately 1000-1200 square meters.

#### Area VI d

✓ Area VI d is similarly a possible location of an ephemeral domestic structure. However, since only a narrow strip (3m by 10m) of the area has apparent good integrity, a limited excavation of 30 square meters is recommended here to search for features, but primarily to recover a representative sample of artifacts to address research questions pertaining to status of tenants <sup>or</sup> and slaves. *This strip extends from E505 to E515 and from S134.5 to S137.5*

#### Area VI e

✓ As described above, the artifact distribution in Area VI e was widely dispersed, and its most likely origin is field dumping. *artifact dispersed into thin and there is* Since ~~there~~ is no evidence for structural remains or other cultural features, no further work is recommended for Area VI e.



# Route Slip

U.S. Department of  
Transportation

To: Name	Title	Date	Org/Rtg Symbol
Silas Hurry,	Maryland Geological Survey	5/4/84	Suite 440

Remarks:

Rotunda - Suite 440  
711 W. 40th Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21211-2187

- ☐ Per Your Request
- ☐ For Your Information
- ☐ Per Our Conversation
- ☐ Note and Return
- ☐ Discuss With Me
- ☐ For Your Approval
- ☐ For Your Signature
- ☐ Comment
- ☐ Take Appropriate Action
- ☐ Please Answer
- ☐ Prepare Reply For Signature Of

From: Name	Title	Telephone	Org/Rtg Symbol
Kathy Laffey	Envir. Protection Spec.	<del>703-5551</del>	HEC-MD.3

962-4132



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

Federal Highway  
Administration

# Memorandum

Subject: Draft Archeological Report for Phase 2      Date: May 3, 1984  
Work on Oxon Hill Manor Site

From: Kathleen O. Laffey *Kathleen O. Laffey*      Reply to  
Environmental Protection Specialist      Attn. of: HEC-MD.3

To: File

THRU: Fred J. Hempel *FJH*  
Division Assistant Administrator

At the meeting at SHA (April 16, 1984) to discuss the I-95/MD 210 archeological work, I received a copy of the Draft Phase 2 Report. At the request of SHA, I forwarded a copy to Bruce Eberle (FHWA Headquarters, Archeologist) and asked that he attend a meeting (April 16, 1984) at the Division office to discuss that report. Recognizing that the report was a first cut, rough draft, the only editorial comments offered are as follows:

1. Include the missing first portion of the Area 1 discussion, which should include a general discussion of Area 1, all of Unit 1 and part of Unit 2.
2. The report needs one good overall map showing the proposed work areas in relationship to the proposed highway right of way.

FHWA's substantive comments are as follows: First and foremost, while the site seems to have fairly good integrity, its significance in terms of National Register eligibility criteria needs to be clarified. Bits of rationale are scattered throughout the report. These should be gathered together for the entire property. The qualities of significance must be clearly and completely addressed, since justification for mitigation work will be tied to these factors. The report needs to explain how this site is important in terms of the specific categories of information/data present at the property. This should be covered at the beginning of the report. This discussion will also be used as the significance statement for the eligibility determination request to the National Register. Information discussed at the meeting which clarified the importance of the property (e.g. it is one of the earliest plantations in the tidewater area, it has a relatively high tax assessment compared to similar properties in Annapolis, etc.) should be added to the report.

- more -

The Phase 2 report will be used as a management tool by the appropriate decision makers to determine what additional work should be performed. This report will be used to establish the need, extent and control of mitigation efforts. Therefore, the research designs need to be clear and explicit, integrated with the qualities that appear to make the property eligible to the National Register and integrated with the SHPO's State Historic Preservation Plan. The report must identify the specific research questions to be addressed by additional archeological work and what information this work is expected to yield that is important to history or prehistory. It needs to discuss how the results of this additional work will resolve some of the issues identified in the research questions.

A discussion of the specific work areas follows:

#### Area 1

It is not apparent what excavation of the well will tell us, nor of what importance is knowing whether or not the well was repaired. It does appear, from the report, that the integrity of the well has been somewhat compromised. Regarding the garden (test Units 7 and 8), the report needs to discuss what significant information this would yield. Again, the report needs to cover what research questions are to be addressed and what we would expect to learn.

#### Area 2

Since soil erosion and irregular deposition has resulted in complicated admixture in this area, it is not clear how the mix of materials and soil slumping can be efficiently studied. How will/can this material address the stated objective, i.e. the question of status of the occupants of the Manor and the change of that status through time, given the mixing of the materials? What, in the final analysis, will this mean in terms of research questions for the site as it relates to the property's National Register qualities.

#### Area 3

What would be the significance of the feature in Area 3 as it relates to the National Register eligibility of the property? Since it appears  $\pm$  75% of this area would be excavated, what is the purpose of the large degree of excavation? The report must also discuss what important information this excavation could provide.

Area 4

The report needs to present specific research questions. Since much of the Phase 2 work showed Area 4 to be a low activity area, what exactly would we expect an intensive examination of this area to tell us? What is its importance in terms of the National Register qualities of the property? For example, if colonial landscaping is considered a viable research topic as related to this National Register property, what research questions would excavation address and what significant information could this work provide on colonial landscaping?

Area 5

Should this area be impacted, what research questions would excavation address, as related to the National Register qualities of the property?

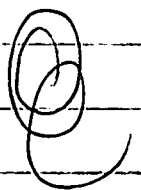
Area III specific questions as to function of feature → how it ties into changing site plan,

Area IV specific data on landscape the "natural environment," information to a physical manifestation of the Georgian Mindset: Glassie et al. Balmoral; Freeland

Area V; specific questions as to function of building - was it a dairy or an ices house - when was it built  
> address overall questions of site design → physical manifestations of "Mindset"

Site m to to > Georgian mindset manifestations beyond architecture.

Impact area has specific resources which will address these questions w/o excavating entire site





Oxon Hill

## Significance

local; regional; national

site integrity  
site rarity

research potential

conspicuous consumption ~~otto~~  
status analysis

Stone + Miller > Michie  
Peitz > winterthur paper  
Miller > Ceramic Index  
Otto > status comparisons

Landscape studies

Kelso at Monticello

Area I > direct information on site layout  
ability to address questions of different  
land use by conspicuous consumption  
consuming owners versus tenants  
artifact deposition > status difference

Area II > status analysis & structural function  
, site layout

## General Comments on Oxon Hill Report

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- discuss location of site with relation to Council for Maryland Archeological Research Unit and USGS quad

- work carried out by Division of Archeology, Maryland Geological Survey under an agreement with the Maryland State Highway Administration

- materials and records are the property of and curated by MGS, DA in Baltimore

2. Include an ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND section, including an historical perspective on the environment?

3. Insert an HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE section (perhaps drawing on M/DOT's Prince Georges County overview). As it stands now, the HISTORICAL OVERVIEW concerns only the house, outlying physical features, and owners/tenants. This new section will enable us to place Oxon Hill and the Addisons within an overall Prince Georges County/Maryland context -- economy, politics, society, etc. This will come in handy later when we argue significance.

4. Re-name HISTORICAL OVERVIEW something like OXON HILL MANOR THROUGH TIME since the section deals mainly with map/document research specifically relating to the house and its accouterments.

### 5. 1983/84 TEST EXCAVATIONS

Put the detailed test unit descriptions in an Appendix (this will expedite the flow of the text); then, for each of the five areas tested, follow an outline similar to below:

#### Area # .

A. discuss location of the area with respect to the manor house and topographical setting

B. present a brief statement as to why this particular area was examined and what you anticipated finding

C. give a general summary of work performed in that area (e.g., 10 one-meter squares, 26 STPs, augering every five m, etc.)

D. summarize findings (basically the summaries you already have for each area are sufficient -- maybe with a little beefing up to fill in for the data now moved to the Appendix)

1. chronology of area

2. features encountered

3. relate to figures (this may be where the beefing up is needed since most references to the figures will be moved to the Appendix; since the figures help illustrate the specific findings, though, I think they should remain in the text; therefore, you may wind up with two references to most figures (one in the text, one in the Appendix))

E. argue a preliminary interpretation of the area

\* At the end of this section (after all five areas have been treated) summarize the site as a whole as we now know it (including our findings, inferences, conjecture, etc.)

6. Insert a SITE SIGNIFICANCE/NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY section

Stress:

- Georgian aspect
- Addison family
- one extreme of the social class
- early date of site
- large Tidewater plantation status
- integrity: lack of post-occupation impact
- compare to other significant sites of the period

7. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Treat the possibility of avoidance of the site?

B. For each Area:

1. briefly summarize findings and general interpretations (this should be a condensation of the previous section)

2. outline anticipated findings

- be specific (e.g., formal gardens: reconstruct landscape, identify plant species, determine planting layout, etc.)

- relate these anticipated to the overall significance aspect of the site

3. present the proposed scope-of-work for each area, showing how the work will explicate research problems enumerated above (again, be specific)

whiteware = one word

- (1) rewrite sentence on significance
- (5) Figure 16 - Unit 3, what Layer?
- (9) INSERT + rewrite views section
- (13) Tyler's comments
- (14) "
- (15) minor comments, T.J. Bastian
- (17) sentence about Fox Ferry Rd - omit?
- M.K. comments
- (21) Insert verbiage on great integrity of well
- (28) summary of Area I - verbiage -
- (31) what really happened in Unit 4.
- (40) insert verbiage on significance of trash deposits + Area II sentence rewrite
- (42) insert verbiage on significance of the mound + specific info to be obtained
- (43) sentence re-write
- (47) sentence re-write?
- (48) insert verbiage on significance of Area III  
# of quartz flakes +